(b) whether any inquiry has been conducted into the matter and if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the action that has been taken by the Government against those involved in the racket ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATRAJAN) : (a) Certain cases of irregularities in the issue of work permits and fleecing of passengers have come to the notice at Indira Gandhi International Airport.

(b) and (c) 170 touts have been arrested by the police in the recent past. Foreigner Regional Registration Officer has taken action to transfer 10 senior inspectors from immigration. Internal vigilance by airlines is also being tightened.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts

367. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes lying cacant in Railways;

(b) the steps being taken to fill up these vacancies; and

(c) the number of employees recruited under the special recruitment drives for SCs/STs/OBCs during the last two years, category-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) The Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in the case of R.K. Sabharwal Vs. State of Punjab as well as Union of India Vs. J.C. Malik has held that the reservation of jobs for SC/ST/OBCs should apply to the posts and not to the vacancies. The Court further held that the vacancy based rosters can operate only till such time as the representation of the persons belonging to the reserved categories, in a cadre, reaches the prescribed percentage of reservation. Thereafter, the roster cannot operate and vacancies released by retirement, resignation, promotion etc., of the persons belonging to the general and the respective reserved categories are to be filled by the appointment of the persons from the respective category so that the prescribed percentage of reservation is maintained.

On the basis of the above principle, the post-based roster both for recruitment and promotion have been constructed and assessment of shortfall of SC/ST/OBCs based on post-based roster is under process.

(c) The following number of persons belonging to SC/ STs had been recruited in the Special Recruitment Drive 1995-1996(1.4.95 to 31.3.96) and 1996-1997 (15.7.96 to 30.6.97) :

	1995-1996		1996-1997	
Group	SC	ST	SC	ST
'C'	473	445	775	821
'D'	533	1291	1068	1233
Total	1006	1736	1843	2054

The above Special Recruitment Drive had been launched as per the directives of DOP&T. No such Special Recruitment Drive had been lauched for the recruitment of Other Backward Classes.

[English]

Coverage by DD and AIR

368. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA:
SHRI ILIYAS AZMI :
SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the approximate uncovered areas in diferent States in the country where Doordarshan and AIR net work has not been provided so far, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to install some more T.V. transmitters and AIR stations to extend Doordarshan and AIR net work in some of those uncovered areas during the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, state-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY) : (a) Details of Statewise uncovered areas are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) Yes,Sir. It is the constant endeavour of the Govt. to increase and provide radio/TV coverage in hitherto uncovered areas. Various new radio/TV Transmitters are proposed to be set up and powers of Transmitter are proposed to be upgradded during the IX plan, which will improve the coverage in uncovered areas. However, the implementation of these schemes will be subject to the approval by the competent authority, availability of adequate financial resources and other infrastructure facilities.

Statement

State-Wise details showing Approximate Radio/Doordarshan Uncovered Areas

Sl.N	States/UTs	Area %	
		Radio	Doordarshan
1	2	3	4
I.	STATES		
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2.0	21.5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.0	88.7
3.	Assam	17.0	26.0
4.	Bihar	-	5.6
5.	Goa	-	0.1
6.	Gujarat	-	28.7
7.	Haryana	-	3.4
8.	Himachal Pradesh	45.0	59.0
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	68.0	67.7
10.	Karnataka	5.0	38.3
11	Kerala	4.0	13.1
12.	Madhya Pradesh	4.0	33.3
13.	Maharashtra	2.0	24.3
14.	Manipur	-	67.9
15.	Meghalaya	4.0	5.4
16.	Mizoram	11.0	32.4
17.	Nagaland	4.0	31.5
18.	Orissa	3.0	20.4
19.	Punjab	-	0.1
20.	Rajasthan	8.0	43.7
21.	Sikkim	30.0	22.6
22.	Tamil Nadu	1.0	8.8
23.	Tripura	-	6.5
24.	Uttar Pradesh	10.5	19.6
25.	West Bengal	-	4.6
II.	UNION TERRITORIES		
1.	A & N Islands	20.0	73.8
2.	Chandigarh	-	0.1
3.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	34.8
4.	Delhi	—	0.1
5.	Daman & Diu	—	0.1
6.	L & M Islands	—	1.0
7.	Pondicherry	—	0.1

NOTE : Terrain conditions not taken into consideration.

Licence to Private Airlines

369. SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH:
SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY:
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI:
SHRI N.S.V.CHITTHAN:
SHRI A.G.S. RAMBABU:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of applications that are pending for grant of licence for private airlines to operate on international routes;

(b) the guidelines that are being followed for granting such licences;

(c) the details of private airlines operating at present;

(d) whether the Government have undertaken any study about its impact on the national carrier; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATRAJAN) : (a) and (b) Requests have been received from M/s. Sahara Airlines and M/s. Elbee Airlines for permission to operate on international routes. Similarly, requests were also received from M/s . East West Airlines and M/s. Modiluft Airlines, which are not operating at present. Under the present policy , private airlines are not permitted to operate on international sectors.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Cancellation of Trains

370. SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of trains originating or leaving from the New Delhi Railway Station have been cancelled from November 12 to December 14, 1997 due to major remodelling of station; and